

# INFORMATION LETTER

## NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

Not for  
Publication

For Members  
Only

No. 876

Washington, D. C.

March 28, 1942

### Government Requires Use of Export Shipping Containers

#### Canned Fruits and Vegetables Reserved by Order M-86-a Must be Packed in Overseas Boxes; Canners Urged to Order Early

Canned fruits and vegetables from the 1942 packs, reserved for government agencies under Order M-86-a, must be packed in export cases, according to statements by War Department officials made March 24 at a conference in Washington.

Procurement officials urge canners to place their orders for these required export boxes early so as to avoid the possibility of raw material and distribution bottlenecks later on.

Both canners and shipping case manufacturers were given a green light for prompt order and delivery of the cases when the inventory provisions of Priorities Regulation No. 1 were amended March 23 to permit acquisition of a stockpile of boxes for future 1942 requirements.

Major James Berry of the Quartermaster Corps has drafted final specifications for three types of export boxes—weatherproof fibre, wire-bound wood, and nailed wood—and these were released officially March 25. (They are presented in full below.)

The major explained the specifications at the conference which was attended by representatives of the National Wooden Box Association, Wire-bound Box Manufacturers Association, and Fibre Box Association, and urged the manufacturers to proceed with the production of the necessary export boxes. At the same time, representatives of the Can Manufacturers Institute and the National Canners Association, also in attendance, were requested to spread the word to their respective memberships, as to the necessity of ordering the containers early.

Harold Jahn, of the Planning Board of the War Department, acted as chairman of the meeting and stated that practically all future Army negotiated purchases would be made on a stipulation that the goods be delivered in export cases. This applies to the total amount of canned fruits and vegetables reserved for the Government under M-86-a, regardless of which agency will eventually be supplied, and it is estimated that container requirements for canned fruits and vegetables will total 53,742,000 cases.

J. Howard Hamilton of the War Production Board, who is administrator of Order M-86-a, has advised the Association that while practically all purchases by the Army will be in export cases, it is not anticipated that strapping or wiring will be needed for such agencies as the Veterans' Bureau and others, as well as for procurement programs for goods intended for consumption within the States. Wherever possible, he explained, commercial cases will be utilized for

deliveries inside the country, although all but a very small percentage of Army procurement will call for export boxes.

Mr. Jahn released the following detailed estimate of shipping container requirements for the 1942 Government Subsistence Program including the requirements for the three peak months:

I.—Total Requirements	
Canned fruits and vegetables.....	53,742,000
Dairy products.....	27,170,000
Canned fish.....	8,025,000
Dried fruit, dehydrated vegetables and shortening.....	18,987,000
Canned meat, hash, stew, etc.....	20,665,000
Frozen meat.....	10,740,000
Miscellaneous (coffee, cocoa, spices, etc.).....	11,530,000
Total.....	150,849,000

II.—Canned Fruit and Vegetable Requirements by Geographical Sections	
Northeast.....	4,384,000
Middle Atlantic.....	9,795,000
Middle West.....	16,414,000
South and Southwest.....	4,797,000
Pacific and Intermountain.....	18,352,000
Total.....	53,742,000

III.—Maximum Monthly Requirements	
July.....	16,551,000
August.....	16,878,000
September.....	19,991,000
Total.....	53,420,000

(Continued on page 6926)

### WOULD AMEND ANTI-RACKETEERING ACT

#### Bills Introduced in Congress are Intended to Close Loopholes in Present Law

The loopholes in the Federal Anti-Racketeering Act, which were recently pointed out by the United States Supreme Court in *United States of America v. Local 807 of International Brotherhood of Teamsters, et al.* (see INFORMATION LETTER March 7, 1942, page 6894), may be closed in the near future by virtue of proposed amendments to that Act introduced into the Senate and House last week (S. 2347, H. R. 6743).

As was explained in the LETTER, the Supreme Court in that decision construed the provision of the Act excepting from punishment any person seeking to obtain "the payment of wages by a *bona fide* employer to a *bona fide* employee" to embrace the members of a local union who offer their services and who require that they be paid even if others perform the actual work. Under the Court's decision, canners making shipments over State lines have no redress, in most instances, under the Act, against the use by local unions of force and violence to procure employment for their members.

Either of the proposed amendments, however, will, if enacted, extend the prohibitions of the Anti-Racketeering Act to the union activities considered in the International Brotherhood case. They seek to eliminate from the statute the exception from punishment of those who obtain or seek to obtain "the payment of wages by a *bona fide* employer to a *bona fide* employee."

The House bill is further an attempted restatement of the Congressional attitude toward labor activities. If enacted it will eliminate the section of the present statute whereunder the courts are prohibited from according to the Act a construction which will "impair, diminish, or in any manner affect the rights of *bona fide* labor organizations in lawfully carrying out (their) legitimate objects."

These proposed amendments have, no doubt, been introduced into Congress in accordance with the thought expressed by the Supreme Court that the activities considered by it in the International Brotherhood case are not beyond "the reach of Federal legislative control." They have been referred to the proper committees, and further developments will be reported.

### PLANS FOR RECRUITING FARM LABOR

#### U. S. Agencies to Assist Migratory Camps; Policy on Young Workers is Announced

Every migratory labor camp soon will have a representative of the U. S. Employment Service directing seasonal farm workers to available jobs in order to help meet the mounting demand for farm labor, it has been announced by Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt.

At the same time, the Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor has released a statement of policies on the recruitment of young workers for war time agriculture.

The plan of assistance with regard to the migratory labor camps is the result of a cooperative agreement between the Farm Security Administration of the Department of Agriculture which operates the camps, and the Employment Service, which is responsible for recruiting and placing farm workers. This year, in addition to the camps maintained on the Pacific seaboard and in some of the western States, there will be 18 mobile migratory camps on the eastern seaboard to give shelter and placement service to seasonal workers there.

"Early in April, these mobile camps, modeled along the lines of Army cantonments, will be erected in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, southern New Jersey, central Connecticut and upper New York State," it was stated.

Small tents for living quarters, usually 150 to a camp, large tents for religious services and recreation, tents for electric power for lighting, tents for laundry equipment and showers, trailer or tent offices for the camp manager, the camp nurse, the farm placement representative, form the major part of the standard equipment of these mobile housing and Employment Service units.

The 18 mobile camps will make a total of 40 stops between April and November, each unit remaining on location until the seasonal demand for workers in that area ceases and moving further north to the next, in time to meet the seasonal demand there. At each location the representative of the U. S. Employment Service attached to the camp will

carry on his duties of recruiting workers for local farmers and directing workers to farm jobs. His placement services will not be limited to workers housed in the camp but will be available to all farm labor in the surrounding community.

Concerning the recruitment of young workers for wartime agriculture the Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor explains that the following statement of policy was prepared by them in consultation with the Office of Education, the U. S. Employment Service and the Department of Agriculture for the purpose of making available to persons and groups in the States who are interested in young workers in agriculture the point of view and suggestions of four Federal agencies especially concerned with young workers and their protection. The following is an excerpt from the text of the policy statement:

Proposals for employment of young workers during normal school terms are approved only after the Farm Placement Service of the United States Employment Service for the several States determines, on the basis of full information on the labor situation, that the anticipated need for labor cannot be filled by older persons resident in the locality or reasonably available from outside the locality.

In recruiting young people from school when a real need for agricultural workers has been found to exist—

Youth 16 years of age and older should be engaged before children aged 14 and 15 are called upon; the schools should make every effort to develop programs that will wisely dovetail school activities with agricultural work and will result in no curtailment of school terms;

Children 14 and 15 years of age should not be released from school nor their school programs modified unless it is found that the need for farm labor is an essential one and cannot be met in any other practicable way; in such case adjustment in school attendance and programs should be arranged to interfere as little as possible with normal school opportunities and progress.

School work and home duties should constitute the only work activities of children under 14 years of age; and such children should not be employed in agriculture outside the home farm.

When young workers are placed in agricultural work, provision should be made for safeguarding their health and welfare through reasonable hours of work; wages at not less than established prevailing rates; safe and suitable transportation where needed; and, for those living away from home to be near their work, provision of fully adequate housing accommodations, supervision, medical care, and leisure-time activities.

Additional copies of the statement are available from the Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington, D. C., on request.

#### Coonley Made Chief of Simplification Branch

Appointment of Howard Coonley as chief of the Simplification Branch of the Bureau of Industrial Conservation has been announced by the War Production Board. Mr. Coonley, chairman of the board of the Walworth Company, replaces Dr. Edwin W. Ely, who recently was called back to his post as chief of the Division of Simplified Practice of the National Bureau of Standards. Dr. Ely was loaned to Industrial Conservation when the Simplification Branch was organized last fall.

**Transfer of Sugar Contracts Made Permissible**

A receiver of refined sugar who prior to December 13, 1941, contracted for future delivery of sugar may transfer his contractual right to such sugar to another receiver without having it charged against his quota, provided he has not accepted delivery of the sugar, the War Production Board has explained in Interpretation No. 1 of Order M-55. (See INFORMATION LETTER of December 20, 1941, for full text of the order.) Such sugar will be charged against the quota of the receiver who buys it from the first receiver.

The interpretation also called the attention of persons acquiring sugar under certain of the quota-exempt provisions of the order to the fact that they may not accept quota-exempt sugar in excess of their minimum working inventory needs. Text of the interpretation is as follows:

The following official interpretation is hereby issued by the Director of Industry Operations with respect to Section 1032.1, General Preference Order No. M-55, as amended January 24, 1942.

Paragraph (a) of General Preference Order No. M-55 incorporates, by reference, the provisions of Priorities Regulation No. 1 (Part 944) to the extent that they are not inconsistent with the order. Subsection 944.14 of Priorities Regulation No. 1 provides, in part, that no person shall accept delivery of any material if his inventory of such material is, or will by virtue of such acceptance become, in excess of a practicable minimum working inventory. Consequently, the quantity of sugar which may be accepted under subparagraphs (d)(5)(vii), (viii), (ix), and (x), by any person is restricted by the application of the practicable minimum working inventory provision of Priorities Regulation No. 1 to the persons specified in said subparagraphs.

The provisions of General Preference Order No. M-55 do not prevent any receiver from transferring, without charge to his quota, the right to receive sugar due him from a distributor under any contract for future delivery executed prior to December 13, 1941, provided he has not accepted and does not accept actual or constructive delivery of such sugar and provided ultimate delivery is made in accordance with the order. It is not material whether the cost of such sugar is billed by the distributor to the receiver who held the contract for future delivery or to the ultimate purchaser.

**Liquid Measure Can Size Bill Introduced**

Representative Andrew Somers of New York has introduced a bill (H. R. 6784) to standardize the size of retail packages for foods, including canned products. The bill has been referred to the Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures, of which Mr. Somers is chairman, and he states that he will probably call a hearing on it.

For liquid foods and canned foods the bill would establish standard units of one ounce, two ounces, four ounces, eight ounces, twelve ounces, one pint, one and one-half pints, one quart, three pints, two quarts, three quarts, one gallon and multiples of one gallon, United States liquid measure. The quantities, as stated, are to be the net contents of the packages filled insofar as possible without impairment of quality.

The Federal Security Agency would be the administrator of the proposed law. The bill, it is stated, was drafted by a committee appointed by authority of the National Conference of Weights and Measures Officials.

**FEDERAL TAX AMORTIZATION PROCEDURE****Method Adopted by War and Navy Departments for Certification of Canning Factories**

Canners will be interested to know of recent developments in the procedure evolved by the War and Navy Departments for the certification of canning facilities under Section 124 of the Internal Revenue Code which permits the amortization over a five-year period of the cost of facilities certified as necessary in the interest of national defense by either the Secretary of the Navy or the Secretary of War.

Under the procedure recently adopted by the War and Navy Departments in conjunction with the Tax Amortization Unit of the War Production Board, necessity certificate applications covering facilities in excess of \$250,000 are referred to the WPB Tax Amortization Unit, for report and recommendation as to the need for the listed facilities in the defense program. In the case of canning facilities, the Tax Amortization Unit has referred these applications to the Food Supply Branch of WPB for a report which has served as a basis of the Unit's recommendation to the War Department in the case of applications filed with the Secretary of War, and to the Certification Supervisory Unit, Navy Department, in the case of applications filed with the Secretary of the Navy.

To facilitate the work of the Tax Amortization Unit in WPB and to expedite the clearance of applications covering canning facilities, the Food Supply Branch, at the request of the Head of the Tax Amortization Unit, recently has furnished that Unit with the following memorandum setting out the Food Supply Branch's policy with respect to the certification of canning facilities:

1. Where at the time of the expansion or conversion, or at the present time, there was or is, an existing or prospective shortage of the food supply to be produced by the facility sought to be certified and
  - a. The facility will be used exclusively for products of the type required for Army, Lend-lease and essential civilian requirements.
  - b. Where not all but the major part of the facilities are to produce such foods.
  - c. Where approximately one-half of the facilities are to produce such foods.

2. Where it is apparent that the facilities will not be used substantially for the purposes, outlined in paragraph 1, and the conditions therein set forth are not found.

In general, cases falling in Class 1-a will be recommended for 100 per cent certification, in 1-b, 75 per cent certification, in 1-c, 50 per cent certification. With regard to cases falling in Class 2, denial of certification should be recommended unless there are other special considerations.

It also should be pointed out that the War Department has indicated it will be guided, to some extent at least, by this memorandum in the clearance of applications of less than \$250,000 which, under the regulations, are not referred to WPB but are sent for report and recommendation only to the Department of Agriculture (Agricultural Defense Relations Committee), and to the Quartermaster General's office if the applicant has Army contracts. For this reason it is important that all applicants make a showing in their applications as to their ability to meet the requirements of the memorandum.

## INFORMATION LETTER

**FSCC INVITES CANNED FOOD OFFERS****Green Beans, Spinach, Carrots and Beets Sought;  
Recent Purchases are Announced**

The Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation announced, March 26, that it would receive offers for the sale of canned cut green beans, spinach, carrots, and beets. Earlier in the past week FSCC asked for offers of canned whole white potatoes. Acceptances of offers of canned potatoes will be made April 1.

Offers of green beans and spinach are to be in the hands of the Corporation by April 14 for acceptance on April 16 and offers of carrots and beets must be submitted by April 15 for acceptance April 17. Cut green bean, carrot, and beet tenders are to be in No. 2 cans and must meet grade C specifications while spinach is requested in No. 2½ cans, grade A.

The announcements of these purchase programs state that delivery is to be made between April 20 and June 30. Thus they constitute the first proposed government purchases of canned foods that possibly may be filled, at least in part, from 1942 packs and charged by the canner against his pack reservation or allocation percentages, required by Order M-86-a.

A provision of an amendment to the maximum price regulation on dressed hogs and wholesale pork cuts issued by the Office of Price Administration on March 24 provides that sales of canned luncheon meat made entirely from pork may be made at \$42.50 per hundred pounds in 12-ounce cans, \$39.75 in 2½-pound cans, and \$38.50 in 6-pound cans. New maximum prices on canned spiced ham also were issued providing for sales at \$44 per hundred pounds in 12-ounce cans, \$41.25 in 2½-pound cans, and \$40 in 6-pound cans.

OPA accounted for its action by pointing out that during the March 3-7, 1942 period, FSCC, by curtailing its purchases, succeeded in buying all its canned meats at prices about 2½ cents per pound below then prevailing prices. Under terms of the original regulation, sales to FSCC and other government agencies are limited to such lower prices. These agencies now find themselves unable to obtain the quantities of meat needed to carry out their programs unless they are permitted to advance their prices to an extent which will reflect the increased cost of the raw materials.

Since March 20 the Department of Agriculture has announced the purchase of 15,295,740 pounds of canned pork products, 803,400 cases of evaporated milk, and 48,200 cases of canned fish (spots).

**Correction of Order on Peach Standards**

The Federal Register for March 20 published a correction of the order on standards of identity and label statement of optional ingredients for canned peaches, which was reproduced on page 6889 of the March 7 INFORMATION LETTER. In the order as published in the Federal Register, and reproduced in the LETTER, the form of unit "unpeeled halves" is not specified as one of the optional ingredients in paragraph (b) of Section 27.00. The order has been corrected by inserting the phrase "unpeeled halves" immediately following the phrase "peeled halves" and preceding the phrase "peeled quarters".

**Advice on Proper Use of Priority Forms**

The War Production Board reports that it is still receiving many unsigned copies of PD-285, as well as numerous single copies instead of duplicates. Many copies show neither the supplier's name nor the necessary pack figures when applying for additions and replacement machinery. Frequently items listed are given as job lots instead of as completely itemized lists. In all such instances it is necessary to return the applications to the canner for proper execution. A few canners are still using forms too large to be acceptable as well as improperly reproduced forms, WPB officials state.

Agricultural machinery, office equipment, automotive trucks and tractors do not come within the limitations of P-115. Strapping wire, stitching wire and other packaging materials cannot be obtained with the use of P-115. General Preference Order P-79 should be used for obtaining stitching and strapping materials.

Many canners are using form PD-285 for obtaining repairs and material for maintenance and operation. WPB explains that it is unnecessary to apply for authority to use the A-3 rating to obtain such materials. A few canners have used purchase order endorsements for obtaining materials which appear to be replacements. Complete machines, or electrical motors, or complete installations of any type cannot be interpreted as repairs, it is explained, and Form PD-285 must be approved before the A-3 rating can be applied for such materials.

WPB also reports that canners must not use A-1-a rating for repairs except in the case of an actual breakdown during the actual canning operation.

**U. S. Steel Extends Tin-plating Facilities**

The United States Steel Corporation announced on March 24 that it will install new electrolytic tin-plating facilities costing approximately \$10,000,000. Two lines will be installed at each plant of its subsidiaries in the Chicago, Pittsburgh, and Birmingham districts. These installations will be in addition to similar electrolytic coating lines announced on February 10, now under construction at a cost of \$5,000,000. Both programs are being undertaken from the corporation's own funds, and all the facilities are expected to be in operation within 12 months.

The Corporation also will install six lines for chemical treatment of blackplate; two each in the Chicago, Pittsburgh, and Birmingham districts.

The new electrolytic-plating facilities will have a combined annual capacity of 9,000,000 base boxes of tinplate, and capacity of the new chemical lines will be 3,000,000 base boxes.

The electrolytic facilities will conserve an estimated 3,375 tons of tin in the production of 9,000,000 base boxes of tinplate, as the dipping method now used requires about 1.25 pounds of tin per base box while the electrolytic method requires only .5 pound.

Most of the chemically treated blackplate will later be lacquered by can makers and will be used where appropriate in applications formerly served by tinplate. Such use of blackplate will effect an indirect saving of 3,750,000 pounds of tin per year.

**1941 Carrot Pack Totals 1,854,734 Cases**

The pack of canned carrots in 1941 totalled 1,854,734 actual cases as compared with 1,303,990 cases in 1940, according to figures compiled by the Association's Division of Statistics. The East packed 725,974 cases, the Mid-West 647,753 cases and the West 481,007 cases.

Details of the 1941 pack are shown in the following table. Detailed figures of the pack in miscellaneous size containers, including glass, are not given, but totalled 232,132 cases.

Style of pack	24/2 Cases	48/8Z Cases	48/1 Cases	24/2/3 Cases	6/10 Cases	Total Cases
<b>EAST:</b>						
Whole.....	408				3,393	3,801
Cut.....	10,438				13,198	24,152
Sliced.....	5,434				24,821	30,784
Diced.....	299,924	14,560	11,396	14,814	139,292	525,654
Shoestring.....	64,177	1,531			14,121	141,583
Total East.....	380,381	16,100	11,396	14,814	194,825	725,974
<b>Mid-West:</b>						
Whole.....	27,516		51		21,074	49,241
Cut.....	8,652		480		3,491	7,737
Sliced.....	2,078		236		1,332	3,646
Diced.....	305,740	13,391	16,814		131,888	516,581
Shoestring.....	44,950	41	155		4,951	70,548
Total Mid-West.....	383,936	18,432	17,745		169,336	647,753
<b>West:</b>						
Whole.....	934		126	344	1,616	3,020
Cut.....	2,656		207	715	12,449	16,117
Sliced.....	2,106		17	13,552	16,814	32,480
Diced.....	125,806	10,144	755		104,805	381,548
Shoestring.....	30,950	1,248			11,294	47,833
Total West.....	162,461	11,392	1,195	14,611	236,978	481,007
Total U. S. ....	926,778	40,924	30,336	29,425	595,130	1,854,734

**Tomato Stocks and Shipments by Regions**

As reported in last week's INFORMATION LETTER, canned tomato stocks on March 1, 1942, totalled 4,369,669 cases, against 10,097,970 cases on the same date last year. Shipments during February, 1942, were 2,161,522 cases against 2,000,355 cases last year. Space limitations made it impossible to present the breakdown of these stocks and shipments by regions. This detail is given in the following table, compiled by the Association's Division of Statistics:

Region	Stocks—March 1		Shipments—February	
	1941	1942	1941	1942
	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases
Northeast.....	406,133	243,005	70,022	103,971
Middle Atlantic.....	2,307,200	1,356,670	664,653	632,519
Mid-West.....	1,948,922	758,001	461,575	501,239
Tennessee-Kentucky.....	283,998	11,965	45,782	41,056
Ozark Territory.....	2,171,825	79,555	163,471	212,084
Western.....	567,502	196,631	141,876	93,933
California.....	2,384,907	1,721,290	401,565	573,707
Southern.....	27,477	2,453	42,411	2,973
Total.....	10,097,970	4,369,669	2,000,355	2,161,522

**Carl Scudder Appointed to Industry Committee**

Carl Scudder, of John S. Mitchell, Inc., Windfall, Ind., has been appointed to membership on the Canned Fruit, Fish, and Vegetable Defense Advisory Committee, by the War Production Board. He takes the place of H. F. Krimendahl, Crampton Canneries, Inc., Celina, Ohio, who resigned because of his recent appointment to the Container Division of WPB.

**ENAMEL CONSERVATION ORDER ISSUED****Restricts Use of Enamel Coating on the Exterior Surface of Can Ends**

Conservation Order M-108, issued by the Director of Industry Operations on March 23 and effective immediately, provides that oils, lacquers, enamels, resins, and gums no longer shall be used as exterior coatings on the ends of cans made of tinplate or terneplate unless the coating serves a particularly useful purpose. The order also directs can manufacturers to use their best efforts to reduce the dry film weight of enamel coatings upon the interior and exterior surfaces of cans, where control of such weight is practicable, to nine-tenths of the weight considered standard practice in the can and metal container manufacturing industry in 1940, or less where practicable.

As to prohibition of the use of enamel, paragraph (b) of the order provides:

No person shall hereafter manufacture cans, including heat-processed food cans, with enamel coating on the exterior surface of the ends thereof, where such ends are made of tinplate or terneplate; provided, however, that the prohibitions and restrictions contained herein shall not prevent:

(1) The use of enamel as an exterior coating on can ends where required to protect from damage and deterioration lithographed printing thereon used to designate contents or to label such cans where other means of labeling or designating the contents thereof are impracticable; or

(2) The use of enamel to coat the exterior surface of can ends made of electro-plated tinned sheet, blackplate or of any untinmed material; or

(3) The manufacture, closing, use or sale of cans which were coated with enamel prior to the effective date of this order or the use in the manufacture of cans of materials, including tinplate or terneplate sheets, which were coated with enamel prior to said date; or

(4) The use of enamel in the manufacture of cans pursuant to a specific contract or sub-contract for the Army or Navy of the United States, the United States Maritime Commission, the Panama Canal, the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the Coast Guard, the Civic Aeronautics Authority, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, the Office of Scientific Research and Development, or for any foreign country pursuant to the Act of March 11, 1941, entitled "An Act to Promote the Defense of the United States" (Lend-lease Act) to the extent that such use is required by the specifications of the prime contract.

**Charles P. Guelf, Veteran Seedsman, Dies**

Charles P. Guelf, veteran seedsman, and one of the industry's best-known figures, was buried in Brocton, N. Y., on March 19. Death occurred March 16 at his home in Hamlin, N. Y. For many years preceding his retirement from business Mr. Guelf had been recognized as one of the leading seed salesmen of the country, his career commencing 47 years ago with the Jerome B. Rice Seed Co. of Cambridge, N. Y. Later he served with F. H. Woodruff & Sons, Inc., of Toledo, Ohio, and Milford, Conn. In 1926 and 1927 Mr. Guelf was president of the Canning Machinery & Supplies Association, and several members of the canning and seed industries served as pallbearers at his funeral.

### Lee A. Colton, N. Y. Kraut Packer, Dies

Funeral services were held at Geneva, N. Y., March 26, for Lee A. Colton, 64, of the Seneca Kraut and Pickling Co., whose death occurred March 24. Mr. Colton had been a leading kraut packer for a number of years and was active in both the National Kraut Packers Association and the Association of New York State Canners, Inc. For 12 years he had operated the Skaneateles Kraut Co., Skaneateles, N. Y., prior to his connection with the Seneca company, of which he was a former president and general manager.

### NEW INTERPRETATION OF DEFERMENT

#### Stricter Consideration of Essential Character of Registrants' Activity Is Required

A new interpretation on occupational deferment from service in the armed forces for men engaged in civilian activities actually necessary to war production, or essential to the support of the war effort, was announced March 22 in a memorandum sent to State directors and local boards by Brig. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, Director of Selective Service. Excerpts from this memorandum, which will be of interest to canners, follow:

Many of the benefits, conveniences and comforts which the people of this nation have enjoyed in peace time must necessarily be given up in the national interest. Now only those civilian activities which are really necessary to war production or essential to the support of the war effort can be accorded the protection of occupational deferment from military service in the armed forces. In order to allocate manpower and to be assured that the activities essential to the prosecution of the war are properly developed and maintained, a new interpretation must now be placed on the phrases "national health, safety, or interest," and "war production."

In the determination of who shall and who shall not be deferred by reason of his occupation in civilian activity the Selective Service System must consider occupational classification in accordance with this new interpretation. This new interpretation will require a more careful consideration of the essential character of the activity in which the registrant is engaged, the occupation which the registrant holds in that activity, and the need for the registrant in that occupation.

Selective Service regulations provide that in Class II-A shall be placed any registrant who is found to be a "necessary man" in industry, business, employment, agricultural pursuit, governmental service, or any other service or endeavor, the maintenance of which is essential to the national health, safety, or interest.

Now that we are at war, the phrase "national health, safety, or interest" no longer includes a mere convenience and comfort. Activities essential to the "national health, safety, or interest" are now limited to those activities, other than war production, which support the war effort. Activities supporting the war effort include those activities which provide food, clothing, shelter, health, safety, and other requisites of our daily life. In order that an activity may be considered essential to the support of the war effort, its facilities must be predominantly devoted to that purpose. \* \* \*

Selective Service regulations provide that, to be placed in Class II-B, a registrant must be a "necessary man" in any industry, business, employment, agricultural pursuit, gov-

ernmental service, or other service or endeavor, the maintenance of which is necessary to the war production program.

With reference to such civilian activities, the phrase "necessary to the war production program" now means the work of processing or producing ships, planes, tanks, guns and other machines, instruments, articles, and materials directly used in the prosecution of the war. \* \* \*

If the activity is neither necessary to war production nor essential to the support of the war effort, then no occupation within that activity can be considered as a "critical occupation" and, in such case, there is provided no grounds for occupational classification. \* \* \* Not all occupations within activities necessary to war production or essential to the support of the war effort are "critical occupations." When an occupation within an activity necessary to war production or essential to the support of the war effort is not itself a "critical occupation" then, in such case, there is provided no grounds for occupational classification.

To be considered a "necessary man" in an activity necessary to war production or an activity essential to the support of the war effort, a registrant "must be, or but for a seasonal or temporary interruption would be, engaged in such activity." By seasonal or temporary interruption is meant not a voluntary interruption of the work, but rather an interruption beyond the registrant's control and of such a character that he is willing to resume and will resume work in such activity at the earliest time when he is needed. \* \* \* The training of persons for "critical occupations" in activities necessary to war production and in other activities essential to the support of the war effort will be undertaken and maintained in such a manner that, as much as possible, existing shortages will be relieved, contemplated shortages will be prevented, replacements will be provided for men now occupationally classified, and replacements will be provided in sufficient time to prevent the necessity of occupational deferments in the future.

When, in any activity which is either necessary to war production or essential to the support of the war effort, a man who is to be inducted into military service is replaced, effort should be made to replace such man with another person who, by reason of dependency, physical condition, or sex, will not be expected to be inducted into military service. To do otherwise will be merely to create another occupational classification problem and the question of replacement will again arise at a later date.

There should be no discrimination in employment against men expected to be inducted, because places for them can be found in critical or noncritical occupations where they may be readily replaced without the future necessity of occupational deferment.

#### Employers Asked to Aid in Occupation Survey

Businessmen will shortly be called upon to help the Government list the occupational skills of all men registered under the Selective Service System. This survey is to be made by the United States Employment Service in cooperation with Selective Service Boards. Questionnaires will be sent by the boards to all men between the ages of 20 and 44 who registered on February 16. This will be in two parts: one for the local selective service board, and one for the United States Employment Service. Later the same questionnaire will be sent to other registrants between the ages of 18 and 64. The announcement of the survey states:

One purpose of this questionnaire is to obtain from each man a statement as to his occupation and skills. Accompanying the questionnaire is a list of 225 jobs essential to

war production. Every man is asked to check those in which he has had experience or training. The questionnaires must be filled out and returned to the local Selective Service Board.

That part of the form intended for the employment service will be sent to its nearest local office for examination to determine which men are already qualified or can be quickly trained for war production work. These men will then be asked to come to the office for an interview as to possible jobs.

Men with skills important to war production will be classified as follows:

1. Those who are now working in war industry and cannot be easily replaced;
2. Those who are now working in war industry but can be replaced within a reasonable time by vocational trainees or others not suited for military service;
3. Those who are not using those skills in war industry but can be shifted to a war industry job.

The questionnaire carries the suggestion that if the man who fills it out needs any help in answering any of the occupational questions, he should go to his employer. Some of the questions may be puzzling to many men, and to some the importance of listing their secondary skills and those they have used on other jobs may be overlooked. The employer is urged by the United States Employment Service to explain to each worker who seeks his aid the significance of the questionnaire and to help him fill it out properly.

The complete listing of the skills of the nation's manpower will be of particular advantage to employers because it will help industry to retain men with special occupational ability, as well as to obtain skilled men for war production jobs.

#### Cabbage Acreage Intentions Up Two Per Cent

Reports to the U. S. Department of Agriculture from cabbage growers on planting intentions in the intermediate and late producing States indicate that there will be about 2 per cent more acreage for harvest in 1942 than in 1941. The combined prospective acreage of intermediate, late domestic, and late Danish-type cabbage is 118,990 acres, compared with 116,180 acres in 1941, and the 10-year (1931-40) average of 111,460 acres.

In the intermediate groups of States, only Iowa is indicated to have less acreage than last season. Increases over last year are indicated in Maryland, New Jersey, Long Island, New York, Tennessee, Washington, Georgia, and southwest Virginia, with other intermediate States showing no change from a year ago.

Intended acreage of commercial late domestic cabbage is materially less than last season in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Growers' intention reports indicate increases of late domestic cabbage in all other States except Minnesota and Utah, where they expect the same acreage as was harvested last season.

Commercial acreage of Danish-type cabbage is indicated to be larger than last season in all producing States except Indiana and Minnesota, where growers intend to plant the same acreage as was harvested in 1941.

If these intended plantings for the intermediate and late States materialize, the total commercial cabbage acreage in the United States in 1942, including all early acreage, will be 207,820 acres, compared with 181,700 acres in 1941, and the 10-year (1931-40) average acreage of 178,300 acres.

#### Army Invites Bids on Canned Meats

The Chicago Quartermaster issued invitations for bids on a variety of canned meats during the week. The following table presents details as to opening dates for these bids, the quantities invited, and the container sizes:

Product	Opening date	Quantity Dozens	Can size
Bacon.....	April 7	6,994	12-lb.
Beef, corned*.....	March 31	138,880	6-lb.
Hash, corned beef.....	do	4,448	5-lb. 8-oz.
Hash, meat and vegetable.....	do	5,020	No. 10
Luncheon meat, pork.....	do	31,153	6-lb.
Sausage, Vienna-style.....	do	341,743	1-lb. 8-oz.
Stew, meat and vegetable.....	do	10,314	30-oz.

\* Domestic pack; alternate bid of same quantity and same can size is acceptable in South American pack.

#### SHIPPING BOX SPECIFICATIONS CLARIFIED

##### WPB States that Nov. 15 Regulations are Minimum, Not Maximum Requirements

The War Production Board's recent interpretation of railroad specifications for fibreboard shipping containers makes it plain to those shippers who have misunderstood the attitude of WPB toward paper conservation that the new railroad specifications which took effect November 15, 1941, should be regarded as minimum rather than maximum specifications for the materials used in making such containers, according to a statement by the Freight Claim Division of the Association of American Railroads. The statement continues:

"When, several months ago, a shortage of paperboard appeared to be in prospect, the Office of Production Management, as a measure of conservation, asked the railroads to relax their tariff requirements for fibreboard containers as set forth in Rule No. 41 of the Consolidated Freight Classification. (See INFORMATION LETTER for November 8, 1941.)

"The railroads promptly accepted the views of OPM and published rules which substantially relaxed their specifications for fibreboard shipping containers. This was done solely to effect a substantial saving of materials, as a defense measure, and not because it was believed that there was any unnecessary strength in such boxes as were then in general use. The revised rule plainly states that the thicknesses or calipers and bursting tests of board were minimum requirements as has always been true of these specifications and great numbers of fibreboard shipping containers exceeded the minimum requirements. Shippers used judgment and experience in determining to what extent their containers should exceed the minimum requirements by use of heavier or stronger boards, interior packing, etc., in order to carry goods satisfactorily to destination. It was assumed that shippers would continue to use the same judgment and experience in determining to what extent containers manufactured after November 15, 1941, should exceed minimum requirements effective on that date.

"However, it became apparent that many shippers were ordering boxes of minimum strength allowed by the new rule regardless of the requirements of the particular goods to be shipped. They appear to have understood this to be the wishes of OPM. In the statement recently made by WPB, the reasons for modifying Rule 41 have been clarified.

"The WPB interpretation shows that the relaxing of the rule as published affords ample opportunity for effecting savings in the use of paperboard without bringing every

package down to the very minimum requirements of Rule 41, and that the feature of protection to the goods being shipped by use of an adequate container is an important one to avoid waste and increased loss and damage."

The Containers Branch of the WPB has emphasized that it does not advocate the use of inadequate shipping containers. If shippers were to adopt the minimum specifications, which became effective November 15, 1941, as maximum specifications, there might be greater losses in goods and materials than could possibly be equalized by savings effectuated by modified specifications. Heavier loads of cars and rougher handling, not only by the railroads, but all along the line of production, necessitate the continued use of discretion on the part of shippers.

#### GOVERNMENT REQUIRES EXPORT CONTAINERS

(Continued from page 6919)

Mr. Jahn also explained General Inventory Order M-113 which modifies the previous inventory provisions insofar as they apply to the seasonal demand of canners for packing boxes. Issued March 23, by Director of Industry Operations J. S. Knowlson, the order permits canners to accept deliveries of corrugated and solid-fibre boxes, wire-bound wood boxes, and nailed wooden boxes, although the inventory of such boxes in the hands of the canner will thus become in excess of a "practicable working minimum."

Delivery of boxes in an amount which would exceed "reasonably anticipated requirements" for the year 1942, however, is barred.

Owing to the present emergency, it was pointed out, canners must build up box inventories larger than normal. With the canning season about to get under way in some areas, operation of the provisions of Priorities Regulation No. 1 might delay deliveries to the Army and fulfillment of the Department of Agriculture goals. Provisions of Order M-113 are as follows:

(a) *Revocation of Inventory Restrictions as to Corrugated and Solid-Fibre Boxes, Wire-Bound Wood Boxes and Nailed Wooden Boxes for Can Manufacturers and Canners.* Notwithstanding the provisions of any regulation or order heretofore issued by the Director of Priorities of the Office of Production Management or by the Director of Industry Operations of the War Production Board, any person may make deliveries of corrugated and solid-fibre boxes, wire-bound wood boxes and nailed wooden boxes, and any can manufacturer or canner (both as defined in Conservation Order M-81) may accept deliveries thereof, although the inventory of such boxes in the hands of the can manufacturer or canner accepting such delivery is, or will by virtue of such acceptance become, in excess of a practicable working minimum; provided, however, that the quantity of boxes so delivered shall not in any event exceed the reasonably anticipated requirements of any such can manufacturer or canner for the year 1942.

(b) *Applicability of Priorities Regulation No. 1.* Except to the extent that the provisions of paragraph (a) are inconsistent therewith, all transactions involving corrugated and solid-fibre boxes, wire-bound wood boxes and nailed wooden boxes shall be subject to the provisions of Priorities Regulation No. 1 as amended from time to time.

(c) *Effective Date.* This Order shall take effect at once and shall continue in effect until revoked by the Director of Industry Operations.

Coincident with the March 24 conference the following memorandum was sent by Col. Guy I. Rowe of the Quartermaster Corps to manufacturers of export shipping containers urging the early solicitation of orders from canners. Text of the memorandum is as follows:

1. Reservation Orders M-86 and M-86-a make it mandatory for canners of fruits and vegetables to reserve a certain percentage of the 1942 pack for the needs of the government. It is already known that a large percentage of this merchandise will ultimately be shipped overseas. In order to make certain that all of these reserved goods will be available for immediate delivery to ports, it has been decided that they shall be provided in containers suitable for export shipment.

2. It is not a new problem for the container industry to supply cases for the annual output of processed fruits and vegetables. However, two new factors enter the picture in 1942. First, there will be an unprecedented demand for the several approved types of export cases. Second, each and every canner becomes a potential government supplier. Therefore, much wider distribution will have to be obtained for the export case. Many canners will use export cases for the first time.

3. There is a real job ahead for both the manufacturers of shipping containers and the canners. In 1942, the "business as usual" policy of soliciting and placing orders for containers will not suffice. Every canner is under obligation to provide merchandise packed in export containers. It is the responsibility of the box industry to assist him in the discharge of this duty. The box industry must make certain that the order of each canner is received in ample time to ensure delivery of the containers when needed. This will involve making the facilities of the box industry available to many canners who have not previously been customers for these types of containers.

4. With your cooperation the job can and will be done if it is started today.

The detailed specifications for the three required types of export shipping cases, approved as acceptable alternates by the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation, are as follows:

#### WEATHERPROOF SOLID FIBER BOXES

Weatherproof solid fiber boxes must be of one-piece or regular slotted construction, metal stitched body joint; construction in accordance with the following table:

Total weight (exclusive of box)	Minimum thickness of board Inch	Minimum bursting strength Pounds
Not exceeding 42 lbs.....	.090	325
Over 42 lbs., but not exceeding 65 lbs.....	.100	375

Boards shall further comply with the following waterproofing tests: Specimens 6 x 10 inches, cut from unscored sections of boxes, shall be completely immersed in water for one hour, after which the component plies must not separate beyond 2 inches from the edges of the piece; after total immersion for 2½ hours similar samples must test not less than 50 per cent of the originally specified bursting strength, and must not weigh more than 150 per cent of the weight before immersion.

Bottom flaps shall be metal stitched, to the extent the canners' facilities permit, otherwise bottom flaps shall be securely sealed by gluing over all areas in contact; top flaps shall be sealed by gluing over all areas in contact. The sealed boxes shall be reinforced by two flat or round steel straps each having a joint or knot breaking strength of not less than 290 pounds, applied at right angles (over sides, top, and bottom,

and over ends, top, and bottom), toward centers of respective panels, but over points of contact of cans with wall of box. Box maker shall print the box with marks to indicate the position of strapping, and a guarantee of compliance with this specification.

#### WIREBOUND WOOD BOXES

Shall comply with Federal Specification NN-B-631a, except as follows: Styles 1, 2 or 3 boxes, or boxes with twisted loop closures, may be used. Veneer or sawed boards, of the following thicknesses, may be used:

Total weight (exclusive of box)	Thickness of sides, top, bottom, ends, and liners	Group I woods	Groups II and III woods*	Group IV woods
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches
Not exceeding 55 lbs.....	3/16	1/7	1/8	
Over 55 lbs., but not exceeding 75 lbs.....	1/4	1/6	1/8	

\* The following species of Group I may be substituted for Group II or III for sides, top, bottom, ends and liners only: Cottonwood, Cypress, Magnolia, Noble Fir, and Spruce.

Cleats shall be not less than 13/16 x 13/16 inches and shall be made of Group II, III or IV woods.

Binding wires shall be not less than No. 15 gauge (.072-inch diameter). Girth wires shall be spaced not more than 6 inches apart. End wires on Style No. 3 boxes shall be spaced not more than 6 inches from cleats or from each other.

Style No. 3 boxes shall have 2 edges liners 1 1/8 inches wide attached to each end perpendicular to (across) the grain of the end boards.

#### NAILED WOODEN BOXES

Boxes shall be new and of good commercial quality. All boxes shall be made of seasoned lumber having a moisture content not to exceed 18 per cent. The pieces shall show no defects that materially weaken them, expose the contents of the box to damage, or interfere with nailing. No knot or knot hole shall have a diameter exceeding one-third the width of the piece. Surfaces of box parts shall be sufficiently smooth to permit legible stenciling and shall not be splintery.

Total weight (exclusive of box)	Groups I or II woods	Groups III or IV woods	Groups I or II woods	Groups III or IV woods
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches
Not exceeding 55 lbs...	5/8	9/16	9/32	1/4
Over 55 lbs., but not ex- ceeding 75 lbs.....	3/4	11/16	11/32	5/16
Over 75 lbs., but not ex- ceeding 100 lbs.*....	3/4	11/16	11/32	5/16

\* Boxes to hold over 75 pounds shall be Style 5 with triangular cleats.

Each side, top and bottom shall be nailed to each end piece with not less than four five-penny cement-coated box nails spaced not more than three inches apart.

Boxes shall be sized to allow approximately one-eighth inch over exact length, width, and height of contents.

The nailed boxes shall be reinforced by two flat or round steel straps, each having a joint or knot breaking strength of not less than 290 pounds, applied over sides, top, and bottom, approximately one-sixth the distance from each end of box.

#### 1941 Pumpkin and Squash Pack

The Pumpkin and Squash pack for 1941 amounted to 2,494,365 actual cases, according to figures compiled by the Association's Division of Statistics. This compares with 2,299,477 cases packed last year.

#### FTC CEASE AND DESIST ORDERS

##### Robinson-Patman Violations Bring Actions Against Corn Products and Clinton Companies

Cease and desist orders directed at the practice of making sales at different delivered prices in different markets, when the difference is not attributable to varying freight rates, were issued recently by the Federal Trade Commission in two proceedings. The first was against Corn Products Refining Company and Corn Products Sales Company, Inc. (See INFORMATION LETTER for October 29, 1938, page 5655) and the second against Clinton Company and Clinton Sales Company. The Commission found the practice to be a violation of the Robinson-Patman Act.

The Commission's findings state that the Corn Products companies made their sales of glucose from a plant located within the Chicago switching area as well as from a plant located at Kansas City, Mo. The Clinton companies made their sales of glucose from a plant located at Clinton, Iowa. All sales, however, were made at delivered prices calculated upon the price in Chicago plus the freight rate from there to the destination of the purchaser. The Commission found that certain purchasers located closer freightwise either to Kansas City, Mo., or Clinton, Iowa, than to Chicago were discriminated against in that they were forced to pay a price measured by delivery costs neither incurred nor paid. Other competing purchasers located nearer to Chicago were accorded lower prices, even though their shipments were received from Clinton or Kansas City, and the seller incurred greater freight expenses. Neither of the companies established that the price differences created by their pricing system reflected actual differences in delivery costs, and the Commission accordingly issued its orders prohibiting this practice.

Each of the companies involved in the two proceedings allowed further price differentials based upon the size and type of containers in which delivery was made. The Commission found that these price differentials were not justified by differences in cost resulting from the use of different size containers.

In addition, the Commission found that all of the respondents accorded preferential treatment to certain customers in other ways. They followed an "order booking" system whereunder they allowed all customers a five-day grace period, after announced price increases, during which orders could be placed by the customers to be accepted and filled at former prices provided deliveries were taken within 30 days. Certain customers were allowed, however, either to ignore the five-day grace period limitation or to take deliveries at former prices after the 30-day period. This was regarded as discrimination.

The Commission further found that the Corn Products companies had, in violation of Section (a) of the Act, discriminated against some customers by allowing discounts, commissions, rebates, refunds, or allowances to others, and that they had, in violation of Section (e), expended large sums of money for the advertising of the products of one of their customers while denying the advertising services or facilities to others. Accordingly, its order embraced all of these actions within its prohibitions.

### Indexes of Employment and Prices

Prices of foods in retail stores continued to advance during the month ending February 17, 1942. Retail prices of all foods, taken as a group, increased 0.6 of a point between January 13 and February 17, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Fresh fruits and vegetables declined one point during this period while canned foods advanced six points. Compared with prices a year ago, the all-food group is up 18.9 points while for canned foods the increase is 22.8 points.

The wholesale price index of all commodities advanced 0.1 of a point during the week ending March 21 and is 15.6 points higher than a year ago. The wholesale index of all foods, however, declined during the week ending March 21, the decrease being 0.3 of a point, but is 19.9 points higher than in the corresponding week of 1941.

The index of payrolls for all commodities continued its steady advance from December, 1941 to January, 1942 while that of employment declined somewhat. Employment is lower by 1.8 points while payrolls went up three points. Employment for January in the canning and preserving industry decreased 12.3 points from December, 1941 but is 20.1 points higher than January of last year; canning payrolls decreased 7.5 points from December, 1941, but are higher by 42.7 points than January, 1941. The following table gives the index numbers for specified dates:

RETAIL PRICES (1935-39 = 100)						
	Feb. 17,	Jan. 13,	Dec. 16,	Feb. 18,		
All foods.....	116.8	116.2	113.1	97.9		
Fresh fruits and vegetables.....	118.0	119.0	111.0	96.3		
Canned fruits and vegetables.....	114.6	108.6	106.3	91.8		
WHOLESALE PRICES (1926 = 100)						
	Mar. 21,	Mar. 14,	Mar. 7,	Feb. 28,	Feb. 14,	Mar. 22,
	1942	1942	1942	1942	1942	1941
All commodities.....	97.2	97.1	96.9	96.8	96.2	81.6
All foods.....	95.5	95.8	95.8	95.5	94.0	75.6
EMPLOYMENT (1923-25 = 100) PAYROLLS (1923-25 = 100)						
	Jan.,	Dec.,	Jan.,	Jan.,	Dec.,	Jan.,
	1942	1941	1941	1942	1941	1941
All industries.....	132.5	134.3	115.5	173.2	170.2	120.7
Canning and preserving	110.0	123.2	90.8	121.9	129.4	79.2

### Stocks and Shipments of Canned Lima Beans

Stocks of canned fresh lima beans on March 1, 1942, amounted to 336,122 cases as compared with 533,148 cases on February 1, 1942, and 787,554 cases on January 1, 1942, according to the Association's Division of Statistics.

The following table presents comparisons of stocks and shipments for specified periods:

Stocks:		Cases
March 1, 1942—		
Sold not shipped.....		246,842
Unsold.....		89,280
Total.....		336,122
February 1, 1942.....		533,148
March 1, 1941.....		(*)
Shipments:		
During February 1942.....		197,026
During February 1941.....		(*)
August 1, 1941 to March 1, 1942.....		2,073,157
August 1, 1940 to March 1, 1941.....		(*)

\* Not available.

### Soviet-Japanese Fisheries Protocol Signed

The Soviet-Japanese fishery agreement was renewed on March 20 for the year 1942. The original agreement expired in 1936, and since that time has been renewed from year to year. The Information Bulletin of the Washington Embassy of the U. S. S. R. states that the terms of the protocol included:

1. The Japanese Government agreed that Japanese fish dealers will refrain from bidding at auctions of five fisheries allotments out of the 19 allotments of which the leases expired in 1941.

2. The Japanese Government agreed to pay a 20 per cent increase (as consented in the agreement of 1941) on all payments due the U. S. S. R. from Japanese fish dealers for rent, taxes and collections. This supplementary sum is in addition to a 10 per cent rent increase to be paid on fishery allotments bought by Japanese fish dealers at the 1942 auctions, in conformity with a method worked out on the basis of the exchange of notes of April 2, 1939.

3. In view of the change in the method of calculating rent of fishery allotments, the Japanese Government agreed, on demand of the State Bank of the U. S. S. R., to make payments in gold ingots deliverable at Vladivostok, or in foreign valuta, at the option of the State Bank of the U. S. S. R.

4. The Japanese Government also agreed that Japanese fish dealers, when paying rent in gold, will pay to the Soviet Government an additional sum in the amount of 4 per cent to cover the expense of transporting the gold.

### Survey Indicates Increased Plantings for 1942

Unusually large shifts between crops and a three to four per cent increase over last year in the total crop are indicated by the Crop Reporting Board's annual March survey of farmers' "intentions to plant." Outstanding in the changes shown by reports from 77,000 farmers is the increase in acreage of sugar beets and of soybeans and peanuts, which can be crushed for vegetable oils. The two crops in which decreases are indicated are Spring wheat and sorghums.

The report states that the tendency to increase plantings is quite general except in wheat-growing regions and in the Northeast where industrial activity is attracting workers from farms. The following table shows the indicated plantings for 1942, as compared with the planted acreage in 1941, of the crops covered by the report:

	Planted 1,000 acres	Indicated 1,000 acres	1942 as per cent of 1941 Per cent
Corn, all.....	87,164	91,348	104.8
Spring wheat, all.....	16,741	15,287	91.3
Oats.....	39,363	40,377	102.6
Barley.....	15,080	18,208	120.7
Flaxseed.....	3,367	4,037	119.9
Rice.....	1,257	1,454	115.7
Sorghums, all.....	18,169	17,070	94.0
Potatoes.....	2,793	2,814	100.7
Sweet potatoes.....	759	776	102.2
Tobacco.....	1,350	1,446	107.1
Beans, dry edible.....	2,304	2,412	104.7
Soybeans*.....	9,996	14,085	140.9
Cowpeas*.....	3,780	3,808	103.1
Peanuts*.....	2,498	4,150	166.1
Tame hay*.....	59,232	60,831	103.7
Sugar beets.....	795	983	123.6

\* Grown alone for all purposes. Partly duplicated in hay acreage.

\* Acreage harvested.

### Stocks and Shipments of Canned Peas

Stocks of canned peas in canners' hands March 1, 1942 were more than two and three quarter million cases less than on the corresponding date in 1941, according to figures compiled by the Association's Division of Statistics. Shipments during the nine-month period—June 1, 1941 to March 1, 1942—were more than five and a quarter million cases larger than during the same period a year ago. The following table gives comparisons of stocks and shipments:

	1940-41	1941-42
Total Stocks March 1.....	6,798,168	3,982,242
Shipments during February.....	2,346,267	2,425,748
Shipments June 1 to March 1.....	21,290,722	26,565,485

The table below presents detailed reports, by regions and varieties, of stocks on March 1, 1942, and shipments during specified periods:

	Stocks March 1		Shipments During February		Shipments June 1 to March 1	
	1941 Cases	1942 Cases	1941 Cases	1942 Cases	1940-41 Cases	1941-42 Cases
N.Y. and Me.:						
Alaskas....	30,926	11,217	12,306	4,401	157,375	152,212
Sweets....	605,946	292,237	156,532	174,038	1,815,037	1,851,288
Mid-Atlantic:						
Alaskas....	257,108	48,359	74,400	81,189	1,886,251	1,511,777
Sweets....	115,022	44,830	16,135	26,814	405,050	364,902
Mid-West:						
Alaskas....	2,003,383	1,015,230	787,254	722,437	6,770,103	8,529,483
Sweets....	2,182,444	1,158,430	770,883	737,374	5,480,613	6,772,777
Western:						
Alaskas....	9,400	2,953	*-3,949	3,613	81,626	83,479
Sweets....	1,547,870	1,408,986	532,706	675,882	4,634,667	7,009,507
Total U. S.:						
Alaskas....	2,286,877	1,077,759	870,011	811,640	8,895,355	10,276,951
Sweets....	4,511,291	2,904,483	1,476,256	1,614,108	12,395,367	16,288,534

\* Stocks were larger than were reported for February, 1941. Minus shipments are reported to make this adjustment.

### Civil Service Seeks Qualified Food Specialists

The Civil Service Commission is seeking persons qualified to set up workable price schedules and practical rationing procedures for canned and dried fruits and vegetables, at salaries ranging from \$3,200 to \$6,500. Applicants must have had experience of a length and quality to insure thorough familiarity with the phases and details of the marketing, transportation, and final distribution of one or more of these commodities and some general knowledge of its manufacture or processing. For the lowest grades at least three years of experience will be required; experience of a routine character, which does not give the applicant a good general knowledge will not be counted as qualifying. For the upper grades the applicants' experience must have demonstrated ability to recognize the trade relationships of the particular commodity with other related commodities and to analyze results of price controls and rationing regulations.

No written test is required. Applicants' qualifications will be judged from a review of sworn statements as to education, training and experience filed by the applicant. Necessary forms for making application may be obtained from the Civil Service Commission at Washington or from the Secretary of the Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners at any first or second class post office except in cities where the Civil Service Commission maintains a district office.

### OPA to Control All Sugar Rationing

Control of sugar rationing heretofore exercised in part by the War Production Board and in part by the Office of Price Administration has been placed entirely in the hands of the OPA by Donald M. Nelson, Chairman of the War Production Board. Prior to this change, the WPB had control of the primary distribution from refiners, while the OPA controlled rationing in the wholesale and retail trades. The problem of sugar supplies for the canning industry is thus transferred to OPA. A formal directive carrying out this change will be issued shortly, it is stated.

### April Recap Quotas Opened to List B Cars

The Office of Price Administration announced on March 24 the April quotas under which a limited number of recapped tires will be available for the first time for passenger vehicles conforming to the eligibility classifications established in List B of the tire rationing regulations. As pointed out in the INFORMATION LETTER of March 14, canners are advised to take up tire requirements for their fieldmen's cars with the local tire rationing boards. In case a local board refuses to classify canner's fieldmen as eligible under List B, an appeal from such decision should be taken to the State tire rationing administrator.

In view of the limited number of recapped tires that will be available, local boards undoubtedly will have more requests for recapped tires from those eligible than can be supplied from the local quota. Even though a canner may have no difficulty over the classification of fieldmen's cars, the local board may feel that other demands for tires are more in the national interest and for that reason may assign its supply of recapped tires to other eligible vehicles.

The April quota allots 470,317 recaps for passenger cars and motorcycles. No recapped tires were available for passenger cars during March.

### WPB to Establish Regional Offices

Thirteen regional offices are to be established by the War Production Board to decentralize so far as possible the activities of the WPB except that of determining policies and programs. The existing 120 field offices of WPB will be allocated among the 13 regional offices, which will be located in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Kansas City, Minneapolis, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Seattle.

### Correction in Tomato Pulp Pack Figures

In comparing the 1941 tomato pulp pack of 2,755,415 actual cases with the total 1940 pack, last week's INFORMATION LETTER reported the latter total as 2,104,898 cases. This figure was a preliminary total; the actual final 1940 total amounted to 2,162,405 cases. The total reported for "Other States" in the regional breakdown should have read 244,804 actual cases instead of 187,297.

## INFORMATION LETTER

**Army Price Policy on Tomatoes and Peas**

A price policy, under which 1942 pack canned tomatoes and peas will be bought for military use, was announced March 26 by the War Department to further the program for expanding this year's production of these two important vegetables. The policy was developed by the War Department, the War Production Board, and the Department of Agriculture as an additional means for encouraging all-time record packs of canned tomatoes and peas this year.

Canners have been requested to increase production, and those who agree to guarantee fixed minimum prices to the grower for his products will be paid higher prices for their pack. To become eligible for this higher price, each canner must be certified by his Department of Agriculture State War Board as having agreed by contracts with growers to pay them at least the minimum price applying to that locality. Packers who are not certified will not be eligible to receive this higher price.

To meet the estimated domestic civilian, military, and Lend-lease requirements, it is estimated that a pack of 40,000,000 cases of tomatoes and 38,000,000 cases of peas is required this year.

To help growers and canners attain a record-breaking output, the Department of Agriculture program not only stipulates the minimum prices to be paid to growers in various localities, but the prices at which it will buy, through the Agricultural Marketing Administration, the 1942 pack offered by certified canners.

To obtain the supplies of canned tomatoes and peas needed for the armed forces of the United States, War Production Board Conservation Order No. M-86 and Order No. M-86-a require canners to set aside certain percentages of their pack for the Government.

**Advisory Committee Consulted on Price Control**

At a two-day meeting of the Canned Fruit, Fish and Vegetable Defense Advisory Committee held in Chicago on March 19 and 20 at the call of the Office of Price Administration, the OPA requested and received from committee members their suggestions on the following phases of the price control program now being considered for the 1942 pack:

1. Cost determination program to determine representative canners' costs on 1941 packs.
2. Study to determine possible increases in 1942 packing costs over 1941 costs which are to be considered in setting maximum 1942 ceiling prices.
3. Establishment of regions to be used as a basis for setting price differentials by regions on each item.

Mr. A. C. Hoffman and Mr. C. N. Kolb presided at the meetings.

**Additions Made to Packaging Show Program**

The American Management Association has announced that a session on "What's Washington Thinking on Packaging?" will be held the morning of April 16 as part of the Twelfth Annual Packaging, Packing, and Shipping Confer-

ence and Exposition, scheduled for April 14 through April 17 at Hotel Astor, New York City. The new session will feature the following eight speakers from the War Production Board:

Douglas Kirk, chief, and Charles L. Sheldon, deputy chief, Containers Branch; Albert W. Luhrs, special consultant; James E. Gates, Civilian Allocation specialist; J. W. Rankin, priorities specialist; Charles Dailey, chief, Steel Barrels and Tight Cooperage Section; Dr. Julian H. Toulouse, chief, Folding Cartons and Set-Up Box Section; and N. A. Fowler, Fiber and Wood Containers Section.

**Alaska Fisheries Appropriation is Boosted**

The Alaska Fisheries Division of the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior will receive \$28,800 more in the fiscal year 1943 than it received for the current fiscal year, if Congress approves the action of the House Appropriations Committee in reporting the annual Interior Department appropriation measure this past week. The increase is unique in a bill that cuts \$75,466,435 off the 1942 appropriation and contains drastic cuts in the funds of practically every bureau of the Department.

Most of the \$28,800 increase to be provided the Alaska fisheries is for the purchase of high-speed, 40-foot boats to be used for enforcement purposes. These boats are required, the Fish and Wildlife Service reported to the Committee, since the Navy has taken over some of the larger vessels of the Service that had been used for patrol work. The sum of \$38,700 had been requested for the purchase of these boats at an estimated cost of \$8,000 each.

**Knowlson Defines Official Interpretations**

J. S. Knowlson, Director of Industry Operations, has warned business and industry that orders and regulations issued by the War Production Board must be strictly followed.

"Official interpretations of priority orders or regulations," Knowlson said, "are issued only over the signature of the Director of Industry Operations, the General Counsel of the War Production Board, or the Assistant General Counsel for the Division of Industry Operations.

"An explanation of an order, indicating the order's application in a particular case, may be issued by the branch or section chief or other official to whom the administration of the particular order has been assigned.

"Interpretations or explanations issued in any manner not in conformity with the above procedure are not official."

**Regarding Washington Hotel Reservations**

Through a typographical error the INFORMATION LETTER last week said that the demand for "total" accommodations in Washington had become heavy. There is no gainsaying that fact, but what the Association intended to point out was the heavy demand for "hotel" accommodations. Take it either way, or both ways, canners who plan to come to Washington on business and who wish the Association to make hotel reservations for them are asked, please, to wire, not write, regarding reservations desired.

## George Aljian Appointed to Navy Procurement

The Division of Purchases of the War Production Board on March 24 announced the appointment of George W. Aljian, Oakland, Calif., to be a procurement specialist assigned to the Navy Department. His duties there are to organize and administer the Container Division in the recently organized Office of Procurement and Materials under Vice Admiral S. M. Robinson. Mr. Aljian is on a three-month leave of absence from the California and Hawaiian Sugar Refining Corporation, Ltd., of which he is purchasing agent.

## Fruits and Vegetables in Cold Storage

### March 1 Stocks of Frozen Fruits are Larger Than Year Ago—Vegetable Stocks Also Show Gain

Frozen fruit stocks on March 1 were reported by the Agricultural Marketing Administration at 139,846,000 pounds. This quantity was 24,992,000 pounds in excess of March 1, 1941 stocks and 41,939,000 pounds above the 5-year average. The net out-of-storage movement during February was 18,127,000 pounds compared with 13,417,000 a year earlier and 11,017,000 pounds average.

Stocks of frozen vegetables totaled 72,669,000 pounds. This quantity was 9,568,000 pounds heavier than March 1, 1941 stocks. The apparent net out-of-storage movement during February was 9,969,000 pounds which compares with a similar movement a year earlier of 7,818,000 pounds.

	Mar. 1, 1941	Feb. 1, 1942	Mar. 1, 1942
	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.
<b>FROZEN FRUITS:</b>			
Blackberries.....	5,247	5,168	4,295
Blueberries.....	7,021	4,950	4,648
Cherries.....	15,048	28,876	26,008
Logan and similar berries.....	1,930	3,787	3,444
Raspberries.....	11,656	14,002	12,187
Strawberries.....	33,906	44,686	40,204
Other fruits.....	19,623	25,972	24,709
Classification not reported.....	20,423	30,532	24,351
Total.....	114,834	157,973	139,846
<b>FROZEN VEGETABLES:</b>			
Asparagus.....	5,175	5,279	4,678
Beans, lima.....	10,736	14,868	13,826
Beans, snap.....	5,194	5,231	4,393
Broccoli, green.....	1,700	1,962	1,842
Corn, sweet.....	4,062	6,746	5,642
Peas, green.....	23,417	24,927	21,823
Spinach.....	3,877	7,383	6,346
Other vegetables.....	5,964	6,855	6,842
Classification not reported.....	2,436	9,467	7,477
Total.....	63,101	82,638	72,669

## Peach Variety Tests Conducted in Colorado

Peach variety tests conducted by the Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station at Austin indicate that July Elberta survived the freeze of blossom time and set more fruit than the other varieties in the test. The fruit also withstood a heavy wind and hung well to the tree. Candoka variety is sensitive to soil types and fails to form many fruit buds. The Golden Jubilee produces pointed fruit which ripens at the point before it is ready to pick. The number of trees affected by severe strain of peach mosaic has been reduced from 28,934 trees in 1935 to approximately 350 in 1940.

Reference: Fifty-fourth Annual Report, Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station, Fort Collins.

## CAMOUFLAGE FOR CANNING PLANTS

### Suggestions Furnished in Bulletin Issued by the U. S. Office of Civilian Defense

The Association recently has received a number of requests for information on measures that may be taken to reduce the visibility of canning plants from air observation. Suggestions for protective concealment of important civilian installations and equipment are contained in a bulletin prepared by the War Department and to be released by the U. S. Office of Civilian Defense, Washington, D. C. In this bulletin, "Civilian Defense Protective Concealment," the foreword cautions that the suggestions offered must be considered of transient value and that no camouflage at all often may be safer than camouflage ill-conceived.

However, "first stage" concealment, the simple use of dull paints on otherwise bright surfaces, will reduce measurably the visibility of otherwise prominent structures. Although not brought out in the bulletin, specialists in the Office of the Chief of Engineers, War Department, state that dark browns, dark greens, and olive drab are recommended colors. Paints used must be non-reflecting. The matching of colors, Army engineers say, is less important than the matching of the tones of the color to the tone of the surroundings. Only oil paints should be used.

Copies of tentative specifications for ready-mixed oil camouflage paint and camouflage colors may be obtained from the Office of the Chief of Engineers, War Department, Washington, D. C. The camouflage paint specification is No. T-1215 and the color specification is No. T-1213.

In Camouflage Bulletin No. 2 issued by the Office of the Chief of Engineers, it is pointed out that frequently it is desirable to tone down white concrete surfaces to reduce visibility. Three types of coatings are reported to be satisfactory for this purpose: (1) Adhesives with colored granules, (2) paints, and (3) stains. Recommended adhesives are non-fibrated bituminous emulsions combined with granules composed of colored sawdust. Colored slate granules and asphalt chips may also be used. Camouflage Bulletin No. 2 may be obtained from the Office of the Chief of Engineers, War Department, Washington, D. C., where also may be obtained specification No. T-1224 for bituminous emulsions for camouflage purposes.

The Civilian Defense bulletin on protective concealment discusses all the elements of camouflage. In "second stage" concealment there is reproduced the pattern of the environment. For example, in an urban area a building with a large flat roof might have imitation streets painted thereon, whereas in a rural environment an appropriate pattern would resemble wooded areas or cultivated ground. "Third stage" concealment involves screening and the erection of false forms to destroy revealing outlines.

Reducing the visibility of structures and facilities by the use of flat paints in dull colors, or by more extensive methods of concealment, are valueless at nighttime if complete blackouts are not maintained during periods of enemy air activity. Obviously, the canner's greatest problem is that of securing a total blackout during the canning season.

Where large roof areas are made up of skylights, British experience has demonstrated that it is more feasible to paint the exterior surface of a great part of the skylight and leave

only a small portion for blackout treatment by curtains or other devices that can be quickly placed. A first coat of light colored paint is of value in maintaining the greatest degree of interior light. Over this may be applied the blackout and concealment paint. Advice and assistance in blacking out should be available to canners from local civilian defense officials.

## WAR DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING CANNERS

### Price Controls and Other Regulations Imposed on Products Used in Food Packing

During the week a number of government regulations were issued by various agencies, affecting products that are used in canning operations. The following paragraphs briefly highlight some of these actions:

*Fish meal* maximum prices are continued in effect with maximum prices for meat scraps reduced \$5 per ton and digester tankage cut \$6 per ton from the temporary ceiling prices in Maximum Price Regulation No. 74. The reduction is made to conform with requirements of the Emergency Price Control Act of 1942 wherein due consideration is to be given prices prevailing October 1 to 15, 1941, and to changes in economic factors that prevailed between that time and March 21, 1942.

*Gasoline and fuel oil* prices are raised in the District of Columbia and the following 17 States: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida (east of the Appalachian River). Amendment No. 4 to revised Price Schedule No. 88, issued by the Office of Price Administration, advances gasoline prices in these States  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent per gallon, distillate fuel oil maximum prices 0.4 cent per gallon, and top prices allowed for residual fuel are raised by 20 cents per barrel.

*Second hand cloth bags* are put under maximum prices in Price Regulation No. 55, effective March 30, and supplanting the revised price schedule that had frozen sellers' maximum prices at the individual highest price on sales or deliveries during the October 1-15, 1941 period. The new regulation divides bags into two major price classifications—processed and unprocessed, and adopts for a basis in establishing maximum prices the two factors of size of the container and weight of the material of which the second hand cloth bag is composed.

*Tinned and detinned scrap* is being segregated in certain localities by the War Production Board for use by copper companies. Supplementary Order M-24-a prohibits shipment of tinned scrap in specified sections of the country so as to assure an adequate supply for the copper precipitation process.

### Blue Stamp Foods Designated for April

Foods which will be nationally available during April with blue stamps have been announced by the Department of Agriculture as follows:

Butter, corn meal, shell eggs, hominy (corn) grits, dry edible beans, wheat flour, enriched wheat flour, self-rising flour, enriched self-rising flour, whole wheat (Graham) flour, fresh vegetables (including potatoes), and fresh pears, apples, prunes, oranges, and grapefruit.

### WPB Establishes Dehydrated Food Unit

Douglas C. Townson, chief of the Food Supply Branch, of the War Production Board, announced on March 26 the formation of a dehydrated food unit in the canned foods section. R. Harry Amenta, formerly purchasing agent of the Surplus Marketing Administration, has been appointed consultant. At SMA he handled dehydrated foods, concentrated fruit juices, vitamins, and other miscellaneous supplies for the Red Cross, Lend-lease, and school lunch program.

Mr. Amenta's duties will be to plan and work out with the food industry a program that will meet military and civilian requirements for dehydrated goods.

### Evaporated and Condensed Milk Statistics

Continued heavy deliveries on government Lend-lease purchases are making fairly heavy inroads on manufacturers' stocks of evaporated milk, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reported on March 25. These stocks totaled 216,410,000 pounds on March 1 compared with 252,532,000 pounds on February 1—a reduction of 36,122,000 pounds. At that, however, this year's March 1 stocks were still considerably larger than the stocks on the same date last year and the corresponding 5-year (1936-40) average—22 per cent and 73 per cent, respectively. But, as an offset to these increases, evaporated milk producers on March 1 held orders from the Agricultural Marketing Administration for 206,356,431 pounds (4,743,826 cases) on which deliveries had not yet been made, compared to orders for only 20 million pounds on the same date last year.

Reduction in government purchases has caused some evaporated milk plants to slow up slightly on their seasonal rate of increase. February production is estimated at 296,877,000 pounds—a decrease of about 14 million pounds from the January output. That decrease was due entirely to the fact that February had three less producing days than January, as the average daily output in February was seasonally larger.

Production is still running far ahead of a year earlier, the February output being 77 per cent larger than in February last year and 117 per cent larger than the 5-year (1936-40) February average. In view of smaller purchases by the Agricultural Marketing Administration, a few condensaries are reported to have diverted some of their milk supplies to cheese factories during February.

War in the Far East has cut off one of the principal markets for domestic producers of condensed milk (case goods.) Partly in fear of what effect this might eventually have on their export trade, and partly because of the reduction in sugar supplies under the temporary rationing program of the War Production Board, the February production, estimated at 3,853,000 pounds, was 41 per cent less than the February production of last year, although 9 per cent larger than the 5-year (1936-40) February average. Stocks of condensed milk held by manufacturers dropped from 9 million pounds on February 1 to 6,223,000 pounds on March 1, and were then 14 per cent less than the stocks on the same date a year earlier, but 37 per cent larger than the 5-year (1936-40) March 1 average.

**VEGETABLE ACREAGE PROBLEM****USDA Requests State War Boards to Assist Canners in Obtaining Needed Crops**

The problem of obtaining sweet corn acreage has been considered by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and the Association is in receipt of a statement issued March 26 to USDA State War Boards by Fred S. Wallace, Special War Board Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture. This statement was accompanied by a letter from D. S. Myer, Acting Administrator, Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Administration, in which the application of the statement to the problem of the sweet corn canner is discussed in more detail.

The Association is reproducing below the statement and the letter to inform canners on the attitude of the Department and the efforts being made to assist them:

**Statement on 1942 Acreage Goals for Canning Vegetables Sent to USDA State War Boards**

"Reports are reaching us from various sources that in several areas the acreage to be planted to the various canning vegetables may not be as large as the desired acreage indicated in the Secretary's goal announcement of January 16, 1942. In some instances fear has been expressed that these acreages may be even less than the 1941 acreages of the same crops, especially in the case of sweet corn. Although reports received so far do not indicate that this situation exists in all canning-crop areas, these reports are sufficiently widespread that it is extremely important for USDA War Boards to make certain that farmers have all available information concerning these crops and that every reasonable effort is made to obtain the acreages indicated in the January release. Since the War Boards have the responsibility for seeing that farmers achieve the goals that have been set, the current reports are called to your particular attention in order that you may take any action possible.

"The goal for canning peas is 38,000,000 cases or an increase of about one-third over the 1941 pack. For canning tomatoes the goal was announced at 40,000,000 cases or an increase of about one-fourth over the pack for 1941. For the other canning vegetables, although no specific acreage or case-pack goal was announced, the Secretary indicated in the release that a production about the same as in 1941 was expected. In order to achieve this expected production it will be necessary for growers of canning crops to increase quite sharply their acreage of peas and tomatoes and to plant at least as much acreage of the other vegetables as they planted in 1941.

"In helping to achieve this production of canning vegetables in 1942 it is expected that canners will do their part by making a vigorous endeavor to contract the necessary acreage. It is also expected that both State and county USDA War Boards will do their utmost to cooperate with both growers and canners in accomplishing this result.

"It is believed, further, that a little extra effort on the part of the War Boards, the growers, and the canners will obtain this production. All members of the State War Board should be furnished copies of this information promptly as well as members of the county War Boards in those counties in which sweet corn for canning is grown."

**Letter to Association from D. S. Myer, Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Administration**

"As requested by you, there are enclosed several copies of a memorandum sent today by Mr. Wallace to the USDA War Boards in the principal sweet corn processing States. We trust that this will be of material assistance in the field in reemphasizing the necessity to obtain adequate acreages not only of sweet corn but of the canning crops as a whole.

"In addition to the information contained in the enclosed memorandum there is one other question which has been raised with us by you as well as in direct correspondence with canners and others. There apparently is an impression prevalent among some canners that the Secretary, by amendment to the 1942 Agricultural Conservation Program, has designated peas and tomatoes for canning as soil-conserving, and because of this these canners have requested that similar action be taken for sweet corn.

"In the first place, no action has been taken by the Secretary along these lines. The action which was taken, however, and out of which this misinformation has probably arisen, was a recent amendment to the 1942 Agricultural Conservation Program in connection with the 20 per cent minimum-conserving provision. As I believe you already know, this provision is applicable, in the Mid-western area only on farms for which one or more special crop allotments such as corn and wheat are established. Under this provision, in order for a farmer to receive his full special crop allotment payments, it is necessary for him to devote throughout the 1942 crop year at least 20 per cent of his crop-land to one or more of the approved soil-conserving uses.

"The recent amendment referred to above added another approved soil-conserving land use which would qualify toward meeting this 20 per cent requirement. That new use is described as new seedlings of perennial grasses or legumes, biennial legumes, or lespedeza seeded with a nurse crop of flax, peas or small grains. This nurse crop could be harvested and still allow the new seeding to qualify. However, the maximum acreage of this kind of new seeding which could be claimed toward meeting the minimum-conserving requirement is limited to 40 per cent of the sum of the 1942 acreages of specified crops which—for purposes of ready designation—have become known as war crops. Among these crops were included canning peas and canning tomatoes. There was a very definite standard used in arriving at this list of crops. That standard was that they must be crops for which the Secretary had requested an increase of at least 10 per cent over 1941. They are also crops in connection with which there is a price-supporting program. In other words, these are crops of which we not only need an increased supply domestically, but which will undoubtedly be needed in varying degrees for export under Lend-lease operations. Many of these crops, such as the oil crops, we formerly imported in substantial quantities and because of the war are not now available to us from foreign sources.

"We feel that to designate sweet corn in this list of so-called war crops would necessitate similar action for all of the other vegetable crops for which the Department indicated on January 16 a desired acreage about equal to the 1941 acreage. It seems to us that any action such as this would only complicate the sweet corn problem instead of helping it and could easily result in less acreage rather than more. As you know, we have made a very careful study of this sweet

## INFORMATION LETTER

corn problem in the last two weeks and we feel convinced of three things: First, that it is highly desirable that the production of sweet corn for 1942 be at least as large as it was in 1941; second, that the limiting factor in obtaining this acreage is not in the conserving requirement which several canners have called to our attention; and third, that to obtain this acreage will require rather vigorous action on the part of the canners in the intensive sweet corn areas. Naturally, this vigorous action means in the first instance a contract price to growers which will offer to the growers a net per-acre return comparable with that which may be expected from competing crops.

"As indicated in the enclosed memorandum, Mr. Wallace has specifically requested the full cooperation of the USDA War Boards in achieving these results. In addition, we feel that you are in a position to clarify with members of your Association many of the questions which have been raised with both you and us. If you feel that we can be of further service to you in this connection, do not hesitate to call upon us."

(Canners who desire copies of the foregoing statement and letter for use by their field men may obtain them upon application to the Association.)

## PROTECTIVE PLAN CONTINUED

## Association's Administrative Council and Directors Extend Trust Indenture 10 Years

At their meetings in Chicago last January, the Administrative Council and Board of Directors of the Association authorized the continuance of the protective plan, inaugurated in 1932, for another ten-year period. This plan established a trust fund of \$50,000 out of which the trustees of the fund are authorized, in their discretion and under conditions specified in the Trust Indenture, to contribute to the payment of judgments or settlements resulting from claims of illness or injury attributed to canned foods packed by members of the Association. In cases where a judgment or settlement in excess of \$1,000 is paid, the member whose product is involved pays the first \$1,000, and the trustees may pay such additional amount as will make a total payment not exceeding \$25,000.

The new indenture, which is now in effect, contains two statements of policy that were adopted by the trustees in March, 1941, and were published for the information of members in INFORMATION LETTER 828, dated March 22, 1941.

In order that members may be familiar with these important statements of policy they are published again as follows:

(1) The trustees may not contribute to payment of a judgment or settlement in connection with any suit, where the defense is not handled by counsel selected or specifically approved by the National Canners Association.

(2) If the National Canners Association reports that a claim can be settled for a certain amount and recommends that such settlement be made, but the canner decides not to accept the recommendation and decides that the claim should be contested further, the trustees may not contribute to a judgment or later settlement of the case beyond the amount that the settlement recommended by the Association exceeds the \$1,000 minimum established by the Trust Indenture.

A revised summary of the provisions of the new Trust Indenture will be sent to any member upon request.

## Misleading Newspaper Report on Food Poisoning

With the development of scientific methods in commercial canning, no botulinus poisoning has been traced to these products since 1925, but cases of botulinus poisoning continue to result occasionally from home canning in which inadequate processes are used. Last month four deaths occurred in Colorado from eating home-canned vegetables. The Association received a newspaper account ascribing the deaths to home-canned products, but its explanation of the danger of botulism was such as to create some suspicion of all canned foods.

The newspaper's attention was accordingly called to the inadvertent reflection upon commercially canned products, which, because of the present reliance upon canned foods in feeding the armed forces, might give rise to unjustified fears among those families with men in the Army and Navy.

## CONTENTS

	PAGE
Government requires use of export shipping containers . . . . .	6919
Would amend anti-racketeering act . . . . .	6919
Plans for recruiting farm labor . . . . .	6920
Coonley made chief of Simplification Branch . . . . .	6920
Transfer of sugar contracts made permissible . . . . .	6921
Liquid measure can size bill introduced . . . . .	6921
Federal tax amortization procedure . . . . .	6921
FSCC invites canned food offers . . . . .	6922
Correction of order on peach standards . . . . .	6922
Advice on proper use of priority forms . . . . .	6922
U. S. Steel extends tin-plating facilities . . . . .	6922
1941 carrot pack totals 1,854,734 cases . . . . .	6923
Tomato stocks and shipments by regions . . . . .	6923
Carl Scudder appointed to industry committee . . . . .	6923
Enamel conservation order issued . . . . .	6923
Charles P. Guell, veteran seedsman, dies . . . . .	6923
Lee A. Colton, N. Y. kraut packer, dies . . . . .	6924
New interpretation of deferment . . . . .	6924
Cabbage acreage intentions up two per cent . . . . .	6925
Army invites bids on canned meats . . . . .	6925
Shipping box specifications clarified . . . . .	6925
1941 pumpkin and squash pack . . . . .	6927
FTC cease and desist orders . . . . .	6927
Indexes of employment and prices . . . . .	6928
Stocks and shipments of canned lima beans . . . . .	6928
Soviet-Japanese fisheries protocol signed . . . . .	6928
Survey indicates increased plantings for 1942 . . . . .	6928
Stocks and shipments of canned peas . . . . .	6929
Civil Service seeks qualified food specialists . . . . .	6929
OPA to control all sugar rationing . . . . .	6929
April recap quotas opened to List B cars . . . . .	6929
WPB to establish regional offices . . . . .	6929
Correction in tomato pulp pack figures . . . . .	6929
Army price policy on tomatoes and peas . . . . .	6930
Advisory Committee consulted on price control . . . . .	6930
Additions made to Packaging Show program . . . . .	6930
Alaska Fisheries appropriation is boosted . . . . .	6930
Knowlson defines official interpretations . . . . .	6930
Regarding Washington hotel reservations . . . . .	6930
George Aljian appointed to Navy procurement . . . . .	6931
Fruits and Vegetables in cold storage . . . . .	6931
Peach variety tests conducted in Colorado . . . . .	6931
Camouflage for canning plants . . . . .	6932
War developments affecting canners . . . . .	6932
Blue stamp foods designated for April . . . . .	6932
WPB establishes dehydrated food unit . . . . .	6932
Evaporated and condensed milk statistics . . . . .	6932
Vegetable acreage problem . . . . .	6933
Protective plan continued . . . . .	6934
Misleading newspaper report on food poisoning . . . . .	6934